

## **Attachment 12**

### **Disadvantaged Community Assistance**

Attachment 12 provides the description on how the projects included in this Proposal benefit the disadvantaged communities in the region. Page 8 of this Attachment includes a letter of support.

## ATTACHMENT 12

### DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

The Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Planning Region IRWM Implementation Proposal includes a suite of five high-priority projects that when combined provide multiple water supply, water quality, environmental, and economic benefits to the region. All of the proposed projects directly address critical water supply or water quality needs of DACs. These projects are:

- » Vail Lake Stabilization and Conjunctive Use Project
- » Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Program
- » Hydroelectric Power Generation Project
- » Water Quality Enhancements in Riverside County
- » Implementing Nutrient Management in the Santa Margarita River Watershed

The suite of projects will result in water supply and water quality benefits to either a majority of or the entire planning region, including DACs, although not exclusively benefiting DACs. These projects represent percent of the total cost of the proposed projects, as well as percent of the requested Implementation Grant funding.

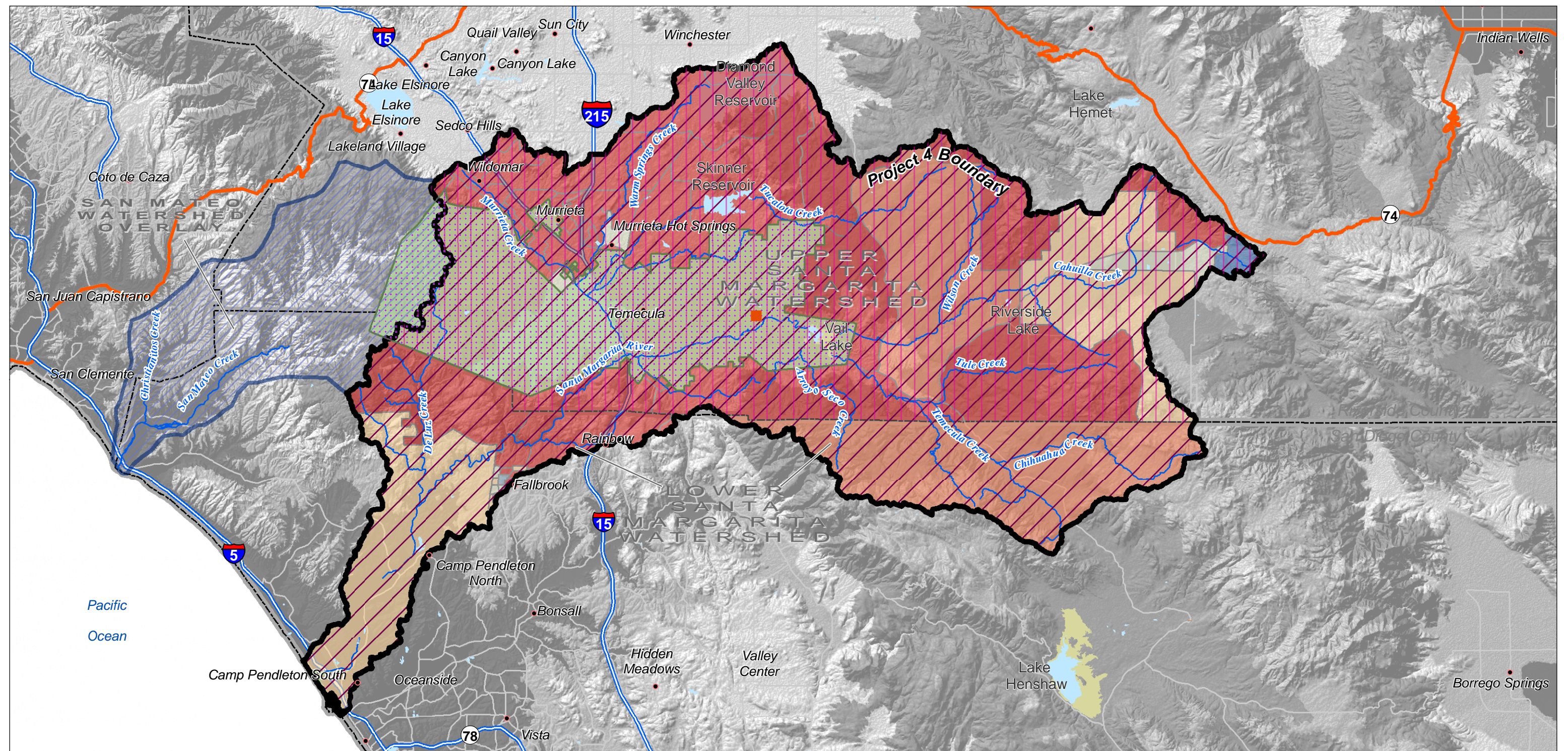
#### **Disadvantaged Communities in the Region**

DACs are defined in State Guidelines as those communities with an annual median household income (MHI) less than 80 percent of the statewide annual MHI. (California Water Code, CWC § 79505.5(a)). Using 2000 Census data, the statewide annual MHI is \$37,994. Disadvantaged communities were identified by obtaining MHI data from US Census 2000 datasets for each census tract in the Upper Santa Margarita River Watershed (USMW). Figure 1 depicts tracts with an MHI less than \$37,994 and qualifying as disadvantaged communities. In comparison, in 2000 the annual MHI for Riverside County was \$42,887 slightly lower than the statewide annual MHI of \$47,493. Qualifying communities are concentrated in the western and eastern portion of the watershed. The majority of disadvantaged census tracts are located in the larger tracts within the upper watershed. Cahuilla Tribal Lands are located within the upper watershed and extend outside of the watershed boundaries. The portion of the Tribal Lands located within the watershed is within a designated disadvantaged community.

It should be noted that while the U.S. Marine Corps Camp Pendleton area is illustrated as a disadvantaged area based on MHI the area is a military base. Camp Pendleton is operated by the federal government and would not be considered a disadvantaged community for planning purposes.

There appears to be a correlation between disadvantaged communities and water resource management issues in the upper watershed. Water resource management issues identified throughout Section 2 of the USMW IRWMP (2007) encompass the entire upper watershed and are linked to the vicinity of disadvantaged communities. For example, vineyard workers have become homeowners and now occupy multi-family housing units in disadvantaged communities adjacent to vineyards where they are employed. Efforts to improve water efficiency in agricultural areas increase agriculture sustainability therefore benefiting disadvantaged communities. Vail, Skinner, and Diamond Valley Lakes provide water resources and recreational opportunities to disadvantaged communities. Two disadvantaged areas in the western portion of the upper watershed are within the vicinity of the 303(d) listed Murrieta Creek; however, the majority of tracts within the vicinity are not disadvantaged.





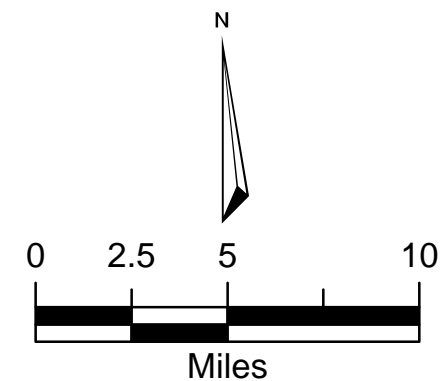
## Legend

- Project 1 Location
- ⬭ Project 2 Boundary (Program is district wide for the RCWD Service Area.)
- ⬭ Project 3 Location
- ⬭ Project 4 Boundary (Implementation throughout Riverside County portion of Watershed)
- ⬭ Project 5 Boundary (Watershed Wide Implementation)

- ⬭ Watershed Boundary
- ⬭ Rancho California Water District Service Area
- ⬭ Regional Highway
- ⬭ State Highway
- ⬭ Major Street
- ⬭ Santa Margarita River
- City

## Median Household Income (MHI)

- ≤ \$21,000
- \$21,001 - \$25,000
- \$25,001 - \$30,000
- \$30,001 - \$35,000
- \$35,001 - \$37,995
- > \$37,995



**Figure 1 Regional Map with Project Locations**

January 5, 2011



**CDM**

Data Sources: Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, ESRI Streets & Maps, USGS National Hydrography Dataset, U.S. Census Bureau Population 2000 Data.



## Disadvantaged Community Outreach

The Upper Santa Margarita River Watershed RWMG performed significant outreach to the DACs. The Rancho California Water District (RCWD), as a local agency has funded percent of the IRWMP efforts and also covered Tri-County Funding Area Coordinating Committee (FACC) facilitation expenses resulting in successful collaboration, coordination, and integration of IRWM needs across South Orange County, Riverside County, and San Diego County boundaries. The Riverside County USMW RWMG is confident that the implementation of much needed DAC implementation projects and continued Tri-County FACC coordination will continue to be successful.

Through the USMW Planning region's special DAC outreach efforts, a data gap was identified for specific issues in the Anza-Aguanga communities. These areas are upstream of the Santa Margarita River and have no access to imported water. There are active adjudication/allocation efforts underway for this isolated area. Rural residential, Native American Tribes, as well as agricultural interests need adequate water supply and debate rages within the community about the adequacy of water for the region's current and future users. The Anza-Aguanga communities have received extensive support and outreach, and have significantly engaged in the process, often representing the majority of attendees at stakeholder meetings. Anza-Aguanga DAC members who accepted invitations to become involved in the IRWM process include, but are not limited to, the following persons:

Anza-Aguanga DAC Members		
Annika Knoppel	Greg Burnett	Pam Nelson
Brian Baharie	Ida Martin	Peter Martin
Charles Binder	Jackie Spanley	Phil Canaday
Cindy Barker	John Kalish	Reggie Agunwah
Daniel Marlin	Kevin Short	Robert Giffin
Elena Mafla	Kristi Lovelady	Robyn Garrison
Flavia Krieg	Louis DeMartino	Sandi Hughes
Frank Miller	Marea Stinnett-Levine	Sharon Evans
Gordon Lanik	Mike Machado	Tulvio Durand
Gordon Pratt	Nancy Swanson	

At least 12 Project Nomination Forms were received by the USMW RWMG from these individuals. These projects were discussed, vetted, and integrated to be positioned well for funding. One of these projects has been submitted as a part of the recent IRWM Planning Grant proposal (Phase 1 of the Anza-Aguanga Groundwater Study), and at least one more project is expected to be prepared for Implementation Grant Round 2. Technical assistance was, and continues to be provided by the RWMG and its consultant (CDM), in coordination with the U.S. Geological Survey, to provide technical expertise in developing and proposing the Groundwater Study, and in developing other projects which are being prepared for future funding rounds.

These stakeholders attended various stakeholder workshops and contributed as members of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) by order to commenting on, questioning, and, finally, approving the priorities, objectives, and, importantly to this document, the suite of projects proposed in this Implementation Grant Round 1 funding proposal. More DAC members also attended two special IRWM DAC stakeholder meetings held after regular stakeholder workshops. One of these meetings was held in the RCWD offices in Temecula, while the other was held in Anza.

Both the region's planning and implementation grant applications contain projects that will assist in developing the stakeholders' ability to manage water within the resources of the area. Funds to complete Phase 1 of the Anza-Aguanga Groundwater Study are requested under the recently submitted IRWM Planning Grant application. The projects proposed in this proposal have been vetted in IRWM stakeholder meetings and approved by stakeholders, including DAC representatives.

### **Project Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities**

Figure 1 shows not only the areas identified as DACs, but also the extent of each of the proposed projects with direct benefits to DACs. These projects will benefit DACs in the following ways:

- » Vail Lake Stabilization and Conjunctive Use Project: The project will provide primarily water supply benefits to the DACs within the RCWD service area. This project will take advantage of additional imported water during wet years for storage and use during dry years. While the source of water for Vail Lake has been natural runoff, construction of a pipeline from an imported water turnout to the lake would allow for seasonal storage and conjunctive use storage. Water could be temporarily stored in Vail Lake for future delivery to agricultural users or piped to the Pauba Groundwater Basin for recharge.

Project construction also includes Quagga Mussel Control Facilities since MWD raw water supply contains quagga mussels and Vail Lake is currently free of quagga mussels. The Project also includes native vegetation restoration.

- » Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Program: Also producing water supply benefits to DACs within the RCWD service area, this project will aid in sustaining regional agriculture by reducing agricultural water requirements for 2,000 acres of irrigated agriculture land by 2,115 acre-feet per year (AFY) through implementation of on-farm water use efficiency strategies.

This project involves developing accurate water budgets for 1,724 agricultural operations and comparing them to historical water consumption to identify 200 agricultural operations or 2,000 irrigated acres that show the greatest need for water use efficiency improvements. The project will also audit the sites and identify ways to increase water use efficiency as well as providing financial incentives (50% of equipment cost). The sites will be re-evaluated and water supply benefits will be quantified.

- » WR-34 Hydroelectric Power Generation Project: The benefits of this project extend throughout the entire RCWD service area, which includes DACs. The project construction area is shown in Figure 1.

Surface water and groundwater in the Santa Margarita Watershed is governed by multiple Court Judgments, a Groundwater Management Agreement with the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, and a Cooperative Water Resource Management Agreement between Camp Pendleton and Rancho California Water District (RCWD/District) settling years of dispute regarding water use in the Santa Margarita River system. This Cooperative Water Resource Management agreement defines RCWD's Gorge flow requirements to the Santa Margarita River system to be 2,500 acre-feet per year. Maintaining base flows and other physical, hydrological, and biological processes and conditions is critical to maintaining the high resource values of the system. In addition to critical water supply needs, endangered and sensitive species as well as critical habitat areas rely on these Santa Margarita River base flows in order to sustain ecosystem

function and values. The Santa Margarita River Outfall Project (WR-34 Turnout) was constructed by RCWD to provide imported water in order to help maintain required base flows to the Santa Margarita River. RCWD has invested \$1.4 million to date to construct this turnout project, along with annual imported water purchases from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Construction of the subject WR-34 Hydroelectric Power Generation Project will strengthen RCWD's ability to continue to replenish the Santa Margarita River base flows required by settlement agreement with the Federal government by enhancing management of existing water management facilities and using available hydraulic flows to provide green energy in order to reduce costs associated with replenishment of Santa Margarita base flows. Since RCWD must use imported water to help meet this settlement agreement, more energy is being consumed to bring down this water from northern California, hundreds of miles. The subject hydropower project is a direct offset of energy for a water supply project. This project will provide safe and reliable electrical energy while continuing to replenish a critical natural waterway. In addition, this project will provide ecologically sound secondary benefits to water and power customers, including DACs.

- » Water Quality Enhancement in Riverside County: This project will benefit the DACs within Riverside County. The project aims to reduce impacts from hydromodification, promote low impact development (LID), support riparian and aquatic habitat restoration, and reduce the discharges of storm water pollutants and improve water quality.

The project involves identification of retrofit opportunities in the Santa Margarita Watershed, which includes researching, inventorying and prioritizing areas of existing development (i.e. municipal, industrial, commercial, and residential) as candidates for targeted retrofit projects that would reduce the impacts of existing development on the watershed.

Specific outreach will occur through the education of homeowner associations (HOAs), which will serve to identify the need and benefits to retrofit existing common landscaped areas.

The project also involves hydromodification management, which will guide and support the planning, design and construction of priority new and significant predevelopment projects (PDPs) within the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed to manage increases in runoff discharge rates and durations.

- » Implementing Nutrient Management in the Santa Margarita River Watershed: To address nutrients in the watershed, the project will serve to identify water quality objectives (WQOs). This project will identify WQOs throughout the entire Santa Margarita River watershed, which includes areas of DACs.

The approach for developing nutrient WQOs for the Santa Margarita River (SMR) estuary leverages two major activities: 1) data collection to support modeling in the estuary and watershed to develop TMDLs and 2) ongoing research to develop the estuarine Nutrient Numeric Endpoints (NNE) framework, based on dissolved oxygen and macroalgae as endpoints. A stakeholder advisory group (which will be identified as part of the project) will guide project activities, review technical work products, and achieve consensus.

The project involves conducting monitoring and special studies to address data gaps. Pending the analysis of data gaps, potential studies will include core field data collection and special studies.

The goal of core field data collection will be to measure ambient nutrient concentrations and conduct algal bioassessment studies.

The special studies will include a characterization of the “natural background” conditions of nutrient concentrations and algal growth which will help characterize the variability in numeric targets.

### **Conclusion**

The Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal includes multiple projects that specifically address critical water supply and water quality needs of a DACs within the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed. The project match for these projects has been secured, and requires no waiver of the funding match.

Enclosed is a letter of support from the Elsinore Marietta Anza Resource Conservation District showing support of the project included in and efforts involved with this Proposal.



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January 4, 2011

Department of Water Resources  
DIRWM, Financial Assistance Branch  
PO Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0101

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed (USMW) Regional Water Management Group's (RWMG) efforts to provide assistance to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). The RWMG has repeatedly reached out to DAC members with invitations to Stakeholder Meetings and with Project Nomination solicitations. These outreach efforts have resulted in the Anza Groundwater Study proposed in the Planning Grant Proposal submitted last fall, development of a few projects which target DAC needs exclusively, which will be ready for the Implementation Grant Round 2 funding proposal, and the suite of proposed Implementation Grant projects included in this Implementation Grant Round 1 funding proposal.

The projects proposed in this proposal package have been vetted and approved by the Stakeholder Advisement Committee (SAC) and are supported by the DAC community which has responded to outreach invitations and participated in the IRWM Plan development. I fully support the proposed suite of projects, and verify that they contribute to the effort to address water supply and water quality needs of the DACs in the planning region.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the USMW Prop 84 IRWM Implementation Grant proposal developed by the SAC.

Thank you, in advance, for your time and willingness to review this letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Vicki Long".

Vicki Long  
President  
Elsinore-Murrietta Anza Resource Conservation District